STORM EVENTS

Volume 3, Issue 1 | ITD Quarterly Storm Water Newsletter | Fall 2008

Promoting Responsible Storm Water Management Practices throughout the Idaho Transportation Department

Nice Work!

Fiber Mulch with tackifier can be an effective means of erosion control on disturbed slopes

Erosion Control vs. Sediment Control

Erosion is the process by which the land surface is worn away by the action of water or wind. Sedimentation is the movement and settling out of suspension of soil particles. It is usually easier and less expensive to prevent erosion than it is to control sediment from leaving a construction site. For example, as pictured above, use of hydraulic mulches to stabilize disturbed slopes can be a very effective erosion control BMP and if properly installed and maintained, will avoid the dislodging and movement of sediment.

Test Your Storm Water Management I.Q.:

1. For how many days can a disturbed area on an ITD project site be left without some form of temporary stabilization?

2. True or False: ITD and the Prime Contractor must submit an NOI at least seven days prior to commencement of construction activities.

3. Per the Consent Decree, within how many days must an instance of non-compliance be reported to EPA?

EPA Issues New 2008 Construction General Permit

(Washington, D.C.) In July of this year, EPA issued a new 2008 Construction General Permit (CGP) that replaced the 2003 version. The new permit is similar to the 2003 Permit but includes the following changes:

- Limited the period of time during which this permit is effective to two years.
- Limited eligibility of permit to new projects and to unpermitted ongoing projects.
- Added new options for authorization procedures and NOI submission deadlines to accommodate new seven-day reviews of NOIs by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Modified information required on NOI form to require: NOI preparer under Certification Information (if the NOI was prepared by someone other than the certifier)
- Reorganized permit provisions relating to control measures, inspections, and SWPPP documentation requirements to clarify and highlight the differences. Added two new requirements:
  (1) a requirement to educate employees or subcontractors as necessary so that they understand their role in implementing stormwater controls (Part 3.6), and
  (2) a requirement to remove sediment from silt fences before the deposit reaches fifty percent of the above-ground fence height.
- Clarified procedure for operator to delineate on the SWPPP areas of the project where no further requirements apply following final stabilization.
- Clarified documentation requirements for ESA eligibility, and added documentation requirements for permit eligibility for waters that have an established TMDL.
- Modified inspection provisions to include option for weekly site inspections and guidelines for inspection of utility line installation, pipeline construction, and other linear construction activities.
- Provided further clarification on stabilization requirements for project areas where construction has temporarily ceased.

ITD Storm Water Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: If my project is located in a semi-arid area (area with an average annual rainfall of 10 to 20 inches), do my final stabilization requirements change?

A1: Yes. Per the 2008 CGP, Appendix A, under the definition for 'Final Stabilization' ***in arid and semi-arid areas only***, final stabilization can be declared if all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and both of the following criteria have been met:

a. Temporary erosion control measures (e.g., degradable rolled erosion control product) are selected, designed, and installed along with an appropriate seed base to provide erosion control for at least three years without active maintenance by you,

b. The temporary erosion control measures are selected, designed, and installed to achieve 70 percent vegetative coverage within three years.

Quiz Answers:

1. Per specification 212, the disturbed acreage can be left unstablized for a maximum of 5 days.
2. True. Based on the EPA commitment of returning an NOI tracking number within 7 days of receipt of the NOI, ITD and the Contractor must consider this 7 day timeframe in the overall project schedule.
3. Per Paragraph 15 of the Consent Decree, any instances of non-compliance must be reported within 5 days of the discovery of the violation.

Q2: If my project started before the new 2008 CGP was issued, am I still covered or do I have to re-apply for coverage under the new permit?

A2: Per the new 2008 CGP, operators of permitted ongoing projects, who received authorization under the 2003 CGP, are not eligible for coverage under the 2008 CGP. Such operators will be automatically continued under the 2003 CGP until the expiration of the 2008 permit and the issuance of a new CGP, or the termination of coverage by you under the 2003 CGP, whichever is earlier.

Q3: If the Prime Contractor working on an ITD project that requires coverage under the CGP refuses to assign a certified WPCM, do I have any options to force the Contractor to do so?

A3: Yes. In the most recently published 'Clean Water Act' insert to be included in all new ITD bid documents, there is a provision to fine the Prime Contractor for not providing a certified WPCM $750/day until one is assigned to the project. For detailed information, please refer to the most recent insert dated 08/08. Please note, this requirement can be change ordered into existing contracts at the discretion of the District.

BMP-3.5 DIVERSION CHANNELS/DITCHES (Temporary)

BMP of the Quarter

Diversion channels or ditches are used above the top of slopes, at the toe of slopes or embankments, in material sources, and at waste sites to collect and divert runoff. Temporary diversion channels or ditches can be used on the lower side of cleared areas that are awaiting excavation. They can also be used along benches on large slope faces to prevent collected runoff from flowing onto slope faces downslope and to reduce the length of an uninterrupted slope face on unbenched slopes. A diversion channel or ditch may be used in conjunction with a berm or dike. Flows concentrated by a diversion channel or ditch and dike or berm should be discharged using chutes, flumes or slope drains.

Mechanical stabilization may be required for temporary channels or ditches with a gradient in excess of 50% (channel or ditch slope steeper than 2H:1V) and for large flows or highly erodible soils.

The diversion outlet may be discharged to a non-wetland (preferably vegetated) area, sediment basin, an artificially stabilized area, or to a slope drain, chute or flume. The diverted runoff should not be allowed to overtop the dike or lip of the ditch. Discharge should be to a flat or gently sloping area. Side slopes of the channel or ditch should be 2H:1V or flatter, and the grade should be gradual.

Refer to: **ITD Standard Specifications, Section 212, ITD Standard Drawings, P-1-D, P-1-E, and P-2-E.**